We claim:

1. A system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices comprising:

a plurality of Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports each including port logic,

5 a route determination apparatus,

a crossbar switch adapted to connect the Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports based on the receipt of certain Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop primitives,

whereby a LIP received on said first port is selectively propagated to one or more of the ports.

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2. The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 1 wherein the LIP is selectively propagated based off of a LIP isolation table.

3. The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of 15 claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes a list of ALPA addresses.

4. The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes specific LIP zones.

20 5. The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes an indication whether a device can receive a LIP.

6. The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of 25 claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table includes an indication of whether a device can generate a LIP.

7. A method for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices comprising the steps of:

30 providing a loop switch coupled to a plurality of Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports each including port logic,

determining a route based on route determination apparatus,

connecting between the Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop ports based on the receipt of certain Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop primitives,

whereupon when a LIP is generated, determining if the LIP is blocked on certain ports based upon a predefined LIP blocking list.

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8.   The system for interconnecting Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop devices of claim 2 wherein the LIP isolation table is in the route determination apparatus.